

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

JUSE-00 SEC-01 FTC-01 XMB-02 /103 W

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R 272159Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4103

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV PFOR PINT VE

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BRIBERY CASE

REF: STATE 179154; STATE 179915

1. FINDING OF 12TH CRIMINAL COURT (CARACAS 8644) APPEARS TO IMPROVE OCCIDENTAL'S PROSPECTS FOR RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION. IN THIS REGARD, NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF MINES, AREVALO REYES IN UNSOLICITED COMMENT IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE LAST WEEK SAID THAT INASMUCH AS OCCIDENTAL HAS BEEN EXONORATED OF BRIBERY CHARGES, IT IS NOW INCUMBENT UPON THE COMPANY TO PETITION THE VENEZUELAN COURTS TO IMPOSE THE NATIONALIZATION LAW UPON IT. IN REYES' OPINION, THE MINES MINISTRY WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR OCCIDENTAL. INSTEAD, COMPENSATION WILL BE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY WITH THE COURT. REYES SAID OCCIDENTAL WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO PRESENT A COMPENSATION PROPOSAL TO THE COURT IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO THE REQUIREMENT IMPOSED ON OTHER CONCESSION-AIRES TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO THE MINES

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MINISTRY. REYES WAS EMPHATIC THAT MATTER WAS NOW OUT OF HANDS OF

MINISTRY OF MINES.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOW APPROACH GOV
SINCE MATTER IS TO BE RESOLVED IN JUDICIARY, AND SUGGESTS
WE AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, NATIONALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA09077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0947
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760719/aaaaaqgu.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 179154, 76 STATE 179915
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BRIBERY CASE
TAGS: EINV, PFOR, PINT, VE, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, (REYES, AREVALO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006